

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 13, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 33 has been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claims 16 and 32 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-12, 14-15, 19-29, 31, and 34 have been cancelled. Claims 16-18 and 32-33 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 16-18 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuchida (Japanese Patent No. 2000027270 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claims 16 and 32 to advance this application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter via a continuing application.

Each of claims 16 and 32 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 19. At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 16 and 32, and dependent claims 17 and 18 are patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 33 is allowed. In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 19, but indicated that claims 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of objected-to claim 19 has been incorporated into base claim 16, and also into independent claim 32. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification and respectfully submit that claims 16 and 32 are now in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 16-18 and 32-33) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

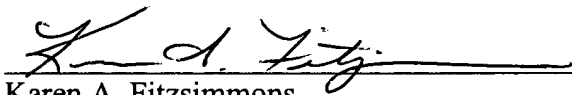
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct.

Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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